



## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Federal Aviation Administration**

#### **14 CFR Part 39**

**[Docket No. FAA-2021-0213; Project Identifier 2018-CE-036-AD]**

**RIN 2120-AA64**

#### **Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

**SUMMARY:** The FAA proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain Pacific Aerospace Limited Model 750XL airplanes. This proposed AD results from mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) originated by an aviation authority of another country to identify and correct an unsafe condition on an aviation product. The MCAI identifies the unsafe condition as insufficient separation of ground terminations for individual power sources and static grounds. This proposed AD would require inspecting and separating, if applicable, the battery and generator common ground connections on the airframe. The FAA is proposing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

**DATES:** The FAA must receive comments on this proposed AD by [INSERT DATE 45 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** You may send comments, using the procedures found in 14 CFR 11.43 and 11.45, by any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- Fax: (202) 493-2251.
- Mail: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.
- Hand Delivery: Deliver to Mail address above between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

For service information identified in this NPRM, contact the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand, Level 15, Asteron Centre, 55 Featherston Street, Wellington 6011; phone: +64 4 560 9400; fax: +64 4 569 2024; email: [info@caa.govt.nz](mailto:info@caa.govt.nz). You may review this referenced service information at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 901 Locust, Kansas City, MO 64106. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (816) 329-4148.

### **Examining the AD Docket**

You may examine the AD docket at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2021-0213; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this NPRM, the MCAI, any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations is listed above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mike Kiesov, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, General Aviation & Rotorcraft Section, International Validation Branch, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, MO 64106; phone: (816) 329-4144; fax: (816) 329-4090; email: [mike.kiesov@faa.gov](mailto:mike.kiesov@faa.gov).

### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Comments Invited**

The FAA invites you to send any written relevant data, views, or arguments about this proposal. Send your comments to an address listed under the ADDRESSES section. Include “Docket No. FAA-2021-0213; Project Identifier 2018-CE-036-AD” at the beginning of your comments. The FAA specifically invites comments on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of this NPRM. The FAA will consider all comments received by the closing date and may amend this NPRM because of those comments.

Except for Confidential Business Information (CBI) as described in the following paragraph, and other information as described in 14 CFR 11.35, the FAA will post all comments received, without change, to <https://www.regulations.gov>, including any

personal information you provide. The agency will also post a report summarizing each substantive verbal contact received about this NPRM.

### **Confidential Business Information**

CBI is commercial or financial information that is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner. Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552), CBI is exempt from public disclosure. If your comments responsive to this NPRM contain commercial or financial information that is customarily treated as private, that you actually treat as private, and that is relevant or responsive to this NPRM, it is important that you clearly designate the submitted comments as CBI. Please mark each page of your submission containing CBI as “PROPIN.” The FAA will treat such marked submissions as confidential under the FOIA, and they will not be placed in the public docket of this AD. Submissions containing CBI should be sent to Mike Kiesov, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, General Aviation & Rotorcraft Section, International Validation Branch, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, MO 64106. Any commentary that the FAA receives which is not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket for this rulemaking.

### **Background**

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), which is the aviation authority for New Zealand, has issued DCA/750XL/30, dated July 5, 2018 (referred to after this as “the MCAI”), to address an unsafe condition on Pacific Aerospace Limited Model 750XL airplanes. The MCAI states:

The ground connections for the individual power sources (BATT & GEN [battery and generator]) have been connected at a common ground point on the aircraft. DCA/750XL/30 is issued to mandate the instructions in Pacific Aerospace Mandatory Service Bulletin (MSB) PACSB/XL/104 issue 1, dated 2 May 2018, or later approved revision to separate the common ground connection on the airframe for the individual power sources (BATT & GEN).

The CAA advises the root cause is a deviation from the approved engineering data. This condition, if not corrected, could lead to the loss of primary and secondary power sources from corrosion of the ground connection or failure of the fastening hardware, which could result in the simultaneous loss of multiple systems. According to

the CAA, this condition was observed on the production line and has been corrected for new airplanes in production. The MCAI requires inspecting the battery ground connections and separating the ground connections as necessary. You may examine the MCAI in the AD docket at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2021-0213.

### **Related Service Information under 1 CFR Part 51**

The FAA reviewed Pacific Aerospace Mandatory Service Bulletin PACSB/XL/104, Issue 1, dated May 2, 2018 (PACSB/XL/104I1). The service information specifies procedures for inspecting the battery ground connections and separating the ground connections as necessary. This service information is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in the ADDRESSES section.

### **FAA's Determination**

This product has been approved by the aviation authority of another country, and is approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to the FAA's bilateral agreement with this State of Design Authority, it has notified the FAA of the unsafe condition described in the MCAI and service information referenced above. The FAA is issuing this NPRM after determining that the unsafe condition described previously is likely to exist or develop on other products of the same type design.

### **Proposed AD Requirements**

This proposed AD would require accomplishing the actions specified in the service information already described.

### **Costs of Compliance**

The FAA estimates that this AD, if adopted as proposed, would affect 23 airplanes of U.S. registry. The FAA also estimates that it would take about 1 work-hour per airplane to comply with the grounding connection inspection of this proposed AD. The average labor rate is \$85 per work-hour.

Based on these figures, the FAA estimates the cost of the proposed inspection on U.S. operators to be \$1,955, or \$85 per airplane.

In addition, the FAA estimates that any necessary action to separate the

connections would take about 3 work-hours and require parts costing \$25, for a cost of \$280 per airplane. The FAA has no way of determining the number of products that may need these actions.

The FAA has included all costs in this cost estimate. According to the manufacturer, however, some of the costs of this proposed AD may be covered under warranty, thereby reducing the cost impact on affected operators.

### **Authority for This Rulemaking**

Title 49 of the United States Code specifies the FAA's authority to issue rules on aviation safety. Subtitle I, section 106, describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII: Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the Agency's authority.

The FAA is issuing this rulemaking under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart III, Section 44701: General requirements. Under that section, Congress charges the FAA with promoting safe flight of civil aircraft in air commerce by prescribing regulations for practices, methods, and procedures the Administrator finds necessary for safety in air commerce. This regulation is within the scope of that authority because it addresses an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on products identified in this rulemaking action.

### **Regulatory Findings**

The FAA determined that this proposed AD would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This proposed AD would not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify this proposed regulation:

- (1) Is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866,
- (2) Would not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, and
- (3) Would not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

## **List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39**

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

### **The Proposed Amendment**

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA proposes to amend 14 CFR part 39 as follows:

#### **PART 39 - AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES**

1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

#### **§ 39.13 [Amended]**

2. The FAA amends § 39.13 by adding the following new airworthiness directive:

**Pacific Aerospace Limited:** Docket No. FAA-2021-0213; Project Identifier 2018-CE-036-AD.

#### **(a) Comments Due Date**

The FAA must receive comments on this airworthiness directive (AD) by [INSERT DATE 45 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

#### **(b) Affected ADs**

None.

#### **(c) Applicability**

This AD applies to Pacific Aerospace Limited Model 750XL airplanes, serial numbers up to and including 222, certificated in any category, with the battery installed within the engine bay at the firewall.

#### **(d) Subject**

Joint Aircraft System Component (JASC) Code 2400, Electric Power System.

#### **(e) Reason**

This AD was prompted by mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) originated by an aviation authority of another country to identify and correct an unsafe condition on an aviation product. The MCAI identifies the unsafe condition as insufficient separation of ground terminations for individual power sources and static grounds. The FAA is issuing this AD to detect and correct ground terminations with

insufficient separation, which could lead to loss of primary and secondary power sources if the ground connection fails and consequent simultaneous loss of multiple airplane systems.

**(f) Compliance**

Comply with this AD within the compliance times specified, unless already done.

**(g) Inspection and Corrective Action**

(1) Within 12 months after the effective date of this AD, inspect the battery installation in the engine bay to determine if the ground leads connect to a single ground stud as shown in the Accomplishment Instructions, figure 2, of Pacific Aerospace Mandatory Service Bulletin PACSB/XL/104, Issue 1, dated May 2, 2018 (PACSB/XL/104I1).

(2) If the ground leads connect to a single ground stud, before further flight, separate the battery ground lead connections by following the Accomplishment Instructions, steps 4 through 36, of PACSB/XL/104I1.

**(h) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)**

(1) The Manager, International Validation Branch, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or local Flight Standards District Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of the certification office, send it to the attention of the person identified in Related Information or email: 9-AVS-AIR-730-AMOC@faa.gov.

(2) Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office/certificate holding district office.

**(i) Related Information**

(1) Refer to Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of New Zealand AD DCA/750XL/30, dated July 5, 2018, for related information. You may examine the CAA AD at <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA-2021-0213.

(2) For more information about this AD contact Mike Kiesov, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, General Aviation & Rotorcraft Section, International Validation Branch, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, MO 64106; (816) 329-4144; fax: (816) 329-4090; email: [mike.kiesov@faa.gov](mailto:mike.kiesov@faa.gov).

(3) For service information related to this AD, contact the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand, Level 15, Asteron Centre, 55 Featherston Street, Wellington 6011; phone: +64 4 560 9400; fax: +64 4 569 2024; email: [info@caa.govt.nz](mailto:info@caa.govt.nz). You may review this referenced service information at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 901 Locust, Kansas City, MO 64106. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (816) 329-4148.

Issued on July 29, 2021.

Lance T. Gant, Director,  
Compliance & Airworthiness Division,  
Aircraft Certification Service.

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